

OCALA EVENING STAR

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BLOXHAM MEN DENY STORY ABOUT BOOZE

Three prominent citizens of Bloxham, Messrs. L. C. Hester and Shelton Phillips of Williston and W. O. Brewer of Romeo, were in Ocala Tuesday. They were very sore on the Star, because of its printing the story last week that Bloxham leaders were trying to delude the negro voters in their precincts by promising them that if Bloxham was created it should be a wet county.

It happened that this worthy trio met a citizen who knew them, and also knew the Star much better than they did. He advised them to go and see the Star, and they took his advice. They called on the Star and the Star was glad to see them, and they had a short but pleasant session and a heart to heart talk.

The three gentlemen assured the Star that neither they individually nor the campaign committee of Bloxham had ever made any such promise to the negroes, and the Star willingly accepts their statement. From what the Star knows of Messrs. Hester, Phillips, Brewer and other leading citizens of "Bloxham," it doesn't believe they would stoop to such disreputable tactics.

At the same time, it must be remembered that some hundreds of "Bloxham" citizens are working for the creation of the new county. Some of them are not as scrupulous as the gentlemen who visited the Star Tuesday, and some of them have undoubtedly spread this wet story among the negroes. Some of the negroes have held out to them to a number of reputable white citizens of Northwest Marion, and they passed the information on to the Star. Of course the men who have used these disreputable tactics will receive the merited contempt of the better men on both sides.

Politics is a game, and a rough game, but the Star tries to play according to the rules. It never makes any statements unless they have a fair amount of probability behind them. If it does a political opponent an injustice, it is always ready to correct and apologize if necessary.

"Bloxham" can't say the same thing. It has made a number of misstatements about Marion, has not corrected any of them, and we doubt that it will.

To begin with its principal argument against Marion has been that county money was used for work on Ocala streets. This statement was not only untruthful but absurd. Its falsity is proven by the records. But "Bloxham" orators repeat it at every opportunity.

Then there is that story about bonding the county for a canal from Silver Springs to Ocala. It was created by a "Bloxham" man for a purpose, and has been worked for that purpose ever since.

We asked Messrs. Hester, Phillips and Brewer about the canal story. They said they obtained it from a report in the Ocala papers of a Board of Trade meeting. We gently called their attention to the fact that a "Bloxham" man had given the story to the Gainesville Sun and had it telegraphed to other papers in the state ten days before the said Board of Trade meeting had been held. We also assured them that as a member of the Board of Trade and of the canal commission the Star knew to a certainty that such a thing as bonding the county to cut the canal had never been considered or even thought of.

We wonder if Messrs. Hester, Phillips and Brewer are going to be as fair to the Star as the Star has been to them, and announce that the stories of work on Ocala streets being paid for with county money, and of Marion county being bonded for the Silver Springs canal, were made by irresponsible parties and there is no truth in them. If any Marion county man hears Messrs. Hester, Phillips or Brewer handing out such a line of talk, will he please notify the Star right away.

A Star reporter spoke to Capt. John M. Graham about forming a

rifle club for Ocala. Mr. Graham said the great trouble would be about finding a target range. It seems to the Star like some of the people with large properties near Ocala might have the patriotism to offer the ground necessary for a range.

TEN-EAR EXHIBITS WOULD BE BETTER

William Gist of McIntosh, one of Marion's leading farmers, and a director of the Marion Fair Association, who was in Ocala Tuesday, made a timely little spiel to the Star about the exhibits necessary to obtain prizes in the corn-selecting contest.

The association offers prizes to farmers and farmers' boys who make exhibits of not less than two dozen ears of corn. Mr. Gist says, and the Star agrees with him, that ten ears of corn is not only enough, but best for such an exhibit. His opinion on this subject is in line with the practice of the agricultural department.

The Star recommends the directors to change the exhibits from twenty-four ears to ten. Its true that announcement of the larger number has been made in the catalogue. But the Ocala papers will give notice of the change, and there is hardly a farmer in the county who doesn't read one of them.

STRIKING AT THE FEE SYSTEM

The Star has received the following letter from Mr. F. A. Wood of St. Petersburg, who will be a candidate for governor in the primary next year:

Editor Star: As a business man, resident and taxpayer of the state of Florida for the past fifteen years I have become very much interested in the abolition of our present fee system as compensation for our county officials.

I am sure that the people of Florida as a whole agree with me that our county officers should be placed upon a salary basis. The question is how to best accomplish this.

Having been a member of the last legislature where the passage of laws is more or less a matter of compromise among the members and where so many interests are presented and lobbied for or against, I have come to the firm conclusion that it would be almost impossible to get a piece of legislation as far reaching as this would be, enacted at any general session of the legislature.

If something be not done between now and the general election of November, 1916, these county officials will be elected again for four years, thus delaying the enactment of any law that will give us relief.

Therefore I have thought best to undertake the task of traveling over the state and laying this matter before the people of every community, asking them to sign petitions such as the enclosed, requesting the governor to call an extra session for the purpose of passing such legislation as will put these officials upon a salary basis.

Assuming that you as a citizen are interested in helping to put our state on a business basis I would appreciate an expression of your opinion as to the plan outlined.

Awaiting with interest your reply, I am Very respectfully,

F. A. Wood.

The letter is accompanied by a petition, asking the governor to call an extra session of the legislature not later than the last week of April, 1916, for the purpose of enacting such laws as are necessary to place all county officials on a salary basis.

It is the Star's opinion that the fee system should be abolished and judging by what it sees in the press the leading newspapers and most prominent men all over the state are of the same opinion. The full inequities of the fee system were found out and abolished in England many years ago. America inherited it from England, and it had more excuse in thinly settled counties and states, where it was practically impossible to pay officers salaries. Most of our larger and more progressive states have partly or entirely abolished the system, and it is time Florida was following their example.

WELCOME VISITORS

Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Hudson and their two interesting children, Miss Mary and Master James, of Miami, who are spending the week in Ocala, are most welcome visitors to our city. Mr. Hudson is state senator from Dade county and a candidate for governor. He is not talking politics, however, but he and his family are making a social visit, meeting old friends and making new ones. Such visitors are always doubly welcome in our city.

COMING NEAR HOME

Mrs. L. P. Butler, of 826 Central avenue, has received word from her sister in England stating that their brother, Stephen Robson, was killed in action on French territory and their nephew, David Reese, was recently wounded at hill 60 in France and returned to England, where he has recovered sufficiently to start work in an ammunition factory. Mord and William Reese, nephews of Mrs. Butler, are engaged in Red Cross work in the trenches and while not actually on the firing line have written back to their English relatives that the dangers to which they are exposed are almost as great as those encountered by the men doing the fighting.

Mrs. Butler's youngest brother, Albert Robson, is a marine on one of the vessels of the English fleet trying to force the Dardanelles and at last accounts was unharmed. The letter to Mrs. Butler from her sister states: "Lots of things have happened since you were here, but I think the most terrible thing that has come to the world is this awful war. The last 13 months have been a terrible time for father and mother. We get a letter from one of the lads most every day, and Mord, if he lives, will go over to see you. He is still full of life and in spite of his experience at the front."

A native of Middlesborough, Yorkshire, England, Mrs. Butler knows many families who are represented in the British regiments fighting against the Germans. She has named her apartment house on Central avenue the Middlesborough, and has made St. Petersburg her home for some years. Stephen Robson, who was killed while with his English regiment in France, was her eldest brother—St. Petersburg Times.

Mrs. Butler is the wife of Mr. L. P. Butler, the express messenger, who has been passing thru Ocala on the A. C. L. two days in three for the past dozen years or more. He is a brother of Mrs. F. W. Ditto and Mrs. Mamie Fox of this city.

If "Shorty Davidson" of High Springs fame, has been pardoned by Governor Trammell, an offense has been committed against the peace and dignity of the state of Florida. Any Floridian who signed a petition in favor of Davidson's release should be ashamed of the act—Tampa Times.

You are right, Frank. We happen to know something about this case.—Sanford Herald.

If Davidson has been turned out, why has his principal Kelly been kept in? Or has Kelly been turned out unknown to the people.

SEABOARD EXCURSIONS

On next Saturday the Seaboard Air Line will run an excursion to Fernandina, Pablo Beach and Atlantic Beach, and the exceptionally attractive rates from Ocala to all three points will no doubt be taken advantage of by many of our people to visit the seashore for a few days. The rate from Ocala is only \$1.50 for the round trip, and tickets are good for return on all regular trains the following Tuesday.

On Monday they will sell round trip tickets with a three-day return limit for Jacksonville, at \$1.50. The special features of this trip will be the big labor day doings at Pablo Beach, and Mr. John Boisseau, the local ticket agent, is anticipating a big crowd from Ocala.

NOTICE

There will be a special meeting of the stockholders of the Ocala Transportation Company at the Board of Trade rooms Wednesday night at 7:30. All requested to be present. 30-2t C. (Ed.) Carmichael.

SEABOARD SCHEDULE

South Bound
No. 1.—Lv. Jacksonville, 9:30 p. m.; Ar. Ocala, 1:45 a. m.; Lv. Ocala 1:50 a. m.; Ar. Tampa 6:30 a. m.; Lv. Tampa 7:30 a. m.; Ar. St. Petersburg 9:30 a. m.
No. 3.—Lv. Jacksonville 9:30 a. m.; Ar. Ocala 12:57 p. m.; Lv. Ocala 1:17 p. m.; Ar. Tampa, 5:25 p. m.; Lv. Tampa, 5:40 p. m.; Ar. St. Petersburg 8 p. m.
No. 9.—Limited train; Lv. Jacksonville 1:30 p. m., Lv. Ocala, 4:30 p. m.; Ar. Tampa, 7:45 p. m.

North Bound
No. 2.—Lv. St. Petersburg, 4:30 p. m.; Ar. Tampa, 6:55 p. m.; Lv. Tampa, 9 p. m.; Ar. Ocala, 2:30 a. m.; Lv. Ocala, 2:35 a. m.; Ar. Jacksonville, 6:45 a. m.
No. 4.—Lv. Tampa, 9 a. m.; Ar. Ocala, 1 p. m.; Lv. Ocala, 1:20 p. m.; Ar. Jacksonville, 5:25 p. m.
No. 10.—Lv. St. Petersburg, 8:30 a. m.; Ar. Tampa, 10:50 a. m.; Lv. Tampa, 1 p. m.; Lv. Ocala, 4:10 p. m.; Ar. Jacksonville, 7:15 p. m. Limited train.

Masons meet Thursday evening.

The Diamond From the Sky

By ROY L. MCCARDELL

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(Continued from Last Week)

SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS.

A feud has existed between Colonel Arthur Stanley and his cousin, Judge Lamar Stanley, ever since the diamond was found in a fallen meteor by an ancestor. Also, the succession to the Stanley earldom in England may come to an American. When a daughter is born to the colonel and the mother dies, the colonel buys a gypsy boy and substitutes him. Three years later the gypsy mother, having had no part in this bargain, seals the girl, being reared in secret, and leaves her son undetected as the heir. The gypsy has obtained possession of the diamond from the sky, and a document with the Stanley secret. When Esther is grown a beautiful young girl, Hagar, a gypsy queen, returns to Virginia with her. Dr. Lee, the late Colonel Stanley's friend, adopts Esther, but demands that Hagar turn over to him the diamond from the sky. Arthur Stanley, son of Hagar, falls in love with Esther and so does his companion and cousin, Blair Stanley, rightful male heir of Stanley. In stealing the diamond Blair causes the death of the doctor. Outside is Arthur serenading Esther. Blair, escaping, infers that he has left Esther's room. Arthur forces him to fight a duel in which Blair is only stunned. He tries, with the aid of his mother, to place the blame for the murder of Dr. Lee upon Arthur, who now has the diamond. The sheriff attempts to take Arthur, but he eludes his pursuers and joins Hagar, who reveals his identity and upbraids him for his wild life. Needing money, he pawns the diamond in Richmond. Blair is in Richmond, and he, too, is forced to visit the pawnshop. The two agree to stand by each other. At a ball, at which a supposed New York belle is the guest of honor, they are stunned to find the diamond on the visitor. She is an adventuress who has borrowed it. While Hagar is telling the "beasties" fortune Luke Lovell, Hagar's gypsy guard, steals the diamond and to avoid detection drops it into a mail box. A sheriff tries to arrest Arthur on the murder charge. He escapes from Richmond on a freight train. The diamond passes into a mail bag, which is lost from a wagon and is picked up by Quabba, an organ grinder. Quabba's monkey steals the diamond and leaves it in a nest in a tree. Arthur is robbed by hoboes, who leave him in tatters. He seeks work at a farm. Hagar takes Esther to live at Stanley hall. An old time tournament is held. Arthur attends in disguise, proves himself the best knight, defeating Blair, but is betrayed by the latter to the sheriff. Quabba, in jest, handcuffs the sheriff and Blair. By daring horsemanship Arthur escapes. Later he leaves the farm. Tom Blake, a detective hired by Hagar, produces fingerprints proving Blair guilty of the death of Dr. Lee. Blair and his mother quarrel about Vivian. Hagar proposes silence to Mrs. Stanley as the price of Hagar's and Esther's being received in Fairfax society. Blair strikes down Hagar and steals the fingerprints and money from his mother. The diamond is found by a negro boy.

(Continued on Third Page)

ruiness. Her face seemed younger, her eyes moist and pleading.

She turned to Mrs. Stanley with outstretched arms and murmured, "Give me my child!" And then Blair's mother saw that the blow her son had dealt the strange visitor had deprived her of all realization of the present.

The stricken brain of Hagar Harding was cognizant of no recent happening. Her mind was in the past. But the judge's widow was not aware that the disordered intellect of the woman before her dwelt only on the great tragedy of Hagar Harding's life, the sale of her son to be foisted as the male heir to the earldom and the diamond from the sky, nearly twenty years ago.

Mrs. Stanley had no suspicion of the import of Hagar's words, but she realized the crazed woman was no menace to either herself or her son, and she led her downstairs and to the door, where she set her on her way to Stanley hall.

At Stanley hall in the gathering twilight Esther waited for Hagar. It was a sad homecoming. The dull eyes of Hagar gleamed with recognition of the portals of Stanley hall. But the face of Esther, the gentle, loving Esther, was the face of a stranger to her.

Alarmed and weeping, Esther led the moaning woman she deemed to be her mother up the broad steps and into the wide hallway of Stanley hall.

Here a nerve, wild change came over Hagar. She sprang to the door of the library and threw it open.

"See, he is in here!" she cried. "They have him in there, the child they stole and sold from me. See the diamond that blazes on his little breast! Take off the diamond! There is a curse on it for all our race! Take off the fine raiment! Give him back his rage! He is my son!"

As it had been with Blair Stanley's austere mother, the wistful Esther sensed no importance in the wild pleadings of Hagar.

Now, too, even the crazed mind of Hagar seemed to realize the library was empty and unoccupied, for she gave a wild cry and fell sobbing on the breast of Esther.

Summoning the servants, Esther had Hagar carried to her chamber. The

(Continued on Third Page)

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LABOR DAY EXCURSION
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Tickets on sale for all regular trains September 6th. Good returning to and including September 9th.
G. Z. PHILLIPS, A. G. P. A., JOHN BOISSEAU, C. T. A.,
Jacksonville, Fla. Ocala, Florida.

the deal for that real estate has been closed and the only thing yet to do is to see if the title is good. Marion county has about 160 deed records and 45 mortgage records and 50 of miscellaneous records or about 160,000 pages of record matter and among these is the record history of that title.

some searching and checking before the abstract man knows that he has got it all.

MORAL: PLACE THE ABSTRACT ORDER EARLY ENOUGH SO THAT THE ABSTRACT MAN HAS REASONABLE TIME IN WHICH TO DO HIS RESEARCH WORK.

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